Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Canceled):

2 (Currently amended):   A receiving apparatus, which is communicably connected to a transmitting apparatus that transmits news information that contains text, for receiving the news information from said transmitting apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving the news information from said transmitting apparatus;

news management means for classifying the received news information under genres and retaining the received news information;

~~retaining means for retaining the received news information in a storage device;~~

voice output means for outputting the text content of the received news information retained by said news management means ~~in the storage device~~ as a voice in an order predetermined for every genre ~~of news information based upon the content of the news information;~~

determining means, when said receiving means receives fresh news information, for determining whether or not degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information which is to be outputted next according to the order and retained by said news management means; and

display means for displaying an animation, which imitates a speaking individual, in conformity with the output of said voice,

wherein when the determining means determines that the degree of importance of the content fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information, said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially, ~~if said determining means determines the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news~~

2

~~information is higher than that of the content of the news information is retained in the storage~~

~~device and is to be outputted next according to the order~~

when the determining means does not determine that the degree of importance of the

content fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information, said news

management means classifies the fresh news information and retains the fresh news information,

and

said display means displays a caster animation selected from among different caster

animations according to the genre of the news information outputted by said voice output means

and whether or not the outputted news information is the fresh news information outputted

preferentially.

3-5 (Canceled):

6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the order is capable of

being set by a user.

7 (Canceled):

8 (Currently amended): An information processing method comprising:

a step of receiving, via a communication path, news information that contains text from a

transmitting apparatus that transmits the news information;

a news management step of classifying the received news information under genres and

retaining the received news information;

~~a step of retaining the received news information in a storage device;~~

a voice output step of outputting the text content of the received news information retained

in said news management step ~~the storage device~~ as a voice in an order predetermined for every

genre ~~of news information based upon the content of the news information;~~

a determining step, when fresh news information is received in said receiving step, of

determining whether or not degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is

3

higher than that of the content of the news information which is to be outputted next according to the order and retained in said news management step; and

a display step of displaying an animation, which imitates a speaking individual, in conformity with the output of said voice,

wherein when it is determined in said determining step that the degree of importance of the content fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information, the text content of the fresh news information is outputted as a voice preferentially in said voice output step, ~~if it is determined in said determining step that the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information is retained in the storage device and is to be outputted next according to the order~~

when it is not determined that the degree of importance of the content fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information, the fresh news information is classified and is retained in said news management step, and

in said display step, a caster animation is displayed, the caster animation being selected from among different caster animations according to the genre of the news information outputted in said voice output step and whether or not the outputted news information is the fresh news information outputted preferentially.

9 (Currently amended):   A computer readable medium encoded with a computer readable program for causing a computer to ~~function as~~ operate the following means included in said computer, wherein said computer, which is communicably connected to a transmitting apparatus that transmits news information that contains text, receives the news information from said transmitting apparatus:

receiving means for receiving the news information from said transmitting apparatus;

news management means for classifying the received news information under genres and retaining the received news information;

~~retaining means for retaining the received news information in a storage device;~~

4

voice output means for outputting the text content of the received news information retained <u>by said news management means</u> ~~in the storage device~~ as a voice in an order predetermined for every genre ~~of news information based upon the content of the news information~~;

determining means, when said receiving means receives fresh news information, for determining <u>whether or not</u> degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information <u>is higher than that of the content of the news information which is to be outputted next according to the order and retained by said news management means</u>; and

display means for displaying an animation, which imitates a speaking individual, in conformity with the output of said voice,

wherein <u>when the determining means determines that the degree of importance of the content fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information,</u> said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially<u>,</u> ~~if said determining means determines the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information is retained in the storage device and is to be outputted next according to the order~~

<u>when the determining means does not determine that the degree of importance of the content fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information, said news management means classifies the fresh news information and retains the fresh news information, and</u>

<u>said display means displays a caster animation selected from among different caster animations according to the genre of the news information outputted by said voice output means and whether or not the outputted news information is the fresh news information outputted preferentially.</u>

10-29 (Canceled):

30 (Previously Presented):   The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein it is notified that said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially.

31 (Previously Presented):   The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said voice output

means outputs a notification voice indicating that said voice output means outputs the text content

of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially.

32 (Previously Presented):   The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said display means

displays a notification indicating that said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh

news information as a voice preferentially.

33 (Canceled):